



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart
Southern District of Ohio

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CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

WEST MILTON MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Lifetime supervised release and registration as sex offender

DAYTON – Charles G. Franks, age 35, of West Milton, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to ten years imprisonment for possessing approximately 2,850 still images and 87 videos of minors engaged in sexually explicit behavior.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced the sentence handed down today by United States District Judge Walter H. Rice.

Franks pleaded guilty on June 5, 2008 to one count of possession of child pornography. Franks bought the images over the Internet. The visual depictions were of children under the age of 18 engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults and other children under the age of 18, along with images of prepubescent children and images of sadistic and masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence.

ICE agents arrested Franks in October, 2006 as part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators.

Because Franks was convicted in Wood County, Ohio in 1998 of engaging in sexual contact with a child under the age of 13, the federal conviction triggered a mandatory minimum ten-year sentence. Franks will be required to register as a sexual offender upon his release from prison anywhere he resides in any state. His sentence also prohibits him from having any unsupervised contact with minors.

“The heinous crime of child pornography requires a punishment that deters both the individual convicted of the crime and any others in the community who may be engaging in this type of offensive behavior,” Lockhart said.

“This case reveals the disturbing truth that some adults will go to great lengths to sexually exploit children,” said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit, which covers Ohio and Michigan. “While we cannot restore innocence to

those who were abused and exploited, we can make sure that justice is served. ICE will ensure that justice is served on behalf of the victims.”

Lockhart commended the investigation by agents of ICE and Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, who prosecuted the case.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

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